

## Tips for Parent Drivers and Teen Drivers

To reduce energy usage, pollution, and traffic congestion, consider walking or bicycling with your children. If you need to drive, follow these safety tips:

- Always obey posted speed limits and other traffic laws.
- Follow pick-up and drop-off procedures using the schools traffic patterns.
- Be patient and understand that walkers, bicyclists, and school buses are trying to exit the school too.
- Cooperate with crossing guards, school patrols, and law enforcement.
- Never talk on your cell phone or engage in other distractions while driving.
- Act as if you would want people to act if it were your neighborhood.
- Obey 'Busses Only' signs.
- Don't block driveways, mailboxes, disabled parking spaces, or fire hydrants, and don't park on lawns.
- Park in designated areas if you have to leave your vehicle.
- Never park in designated fire lane.



Choose **Safety** for Life★



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**Safe Routes to School Program**  
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Montgomery County, Maryland  
Department of Transportation

## Safe Routes to School Program

*Encouraging our children  
to walk and bike to school*



**Guidelines for  
Your Child's Safety  
While Traveling To  
and From School**

## **What is the Safe Routes to School Program?**

Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School Program is an effort to



use a variety of education, engineering, and enforcement strategies that help make routes safer for children to walk and bicycle to school.

The program involves the whole community... parents, children, neighborhood groups, schools, law enforcement officers, community leaders, and transportation and public health professionals to help identify issues and work together on solutions.

The program encourages children to walk and bicycle to school by providing improved walking conditions in the areas around the school.



## **Walking . . . Make it fun!**

*Walking and riding your bike to school each day is a great way to get exercise. It is good for your heart, lungs, muscles, brain, and your whole body.*

Teach, practice, and remind children to:

- Use crosswalks and sidewalks where available; if no sidewalk is available walk in the street as far to the left as possible, facing the oncoming cars.
- Obey traffic signals, walk/don't walk signals, and crossing guards at all times.
- Stop at the curb or edge of road and look left, look right, and then look left again before crossing the street.
- Do not walk in between vehicles and/or school busses.
- Wear bright or light colored clothing in bad weather or darkness and be extra cautious.
- Walk with friends and do not talk to strangers.
- Use pedestrian pushbuttons to activate/extend the walk signal.
- Make eye contact with drivers so they see you. Never assume they do.

## **Biking . . . Make it fun!**

*Bicycles are vehicles and riders must follow Maryland Traffic Laws.*

Teach, practice, and remind children to:

- Wear a properly-fitted helmet.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic – remember you are a vehicle too!
- Obey traffic signals and crossing guards at all times.
- Stop at the curb or edge of road and look left, look right, and then look left again before crossing the street.
- Do not ride in between vehicles and/or school busses.
- Wear bright or light colored clothing in bad weather or darkness and be extra cautious.
- Watch for cars coming out of driveways. Make eye contact with the driver.
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- Wear reflectors and keep your bike well maintained.

